

UN Group of Governmental Experts: Promoting TCBMs for Prevention of Placement of Weapons in Outer Space

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- ✓ 12 February 2008
Russian Federation and
People's Republic of China
officially submitted draft PPW
Treaty in the CD
- ✓ Time to start substantial
discussion



Draft PPW Treaty, Article VI:

“With a view to facilitate assurance of compliance with the Treaty provisions and to promote transparency and confidence-building in outer space activities the States Parties shall practice on a voluntary basis, unless agreed otherwise, agreed confidence-building measures.”



The UN GA Resolutions on the prevention of arms race in outer space recognize that:

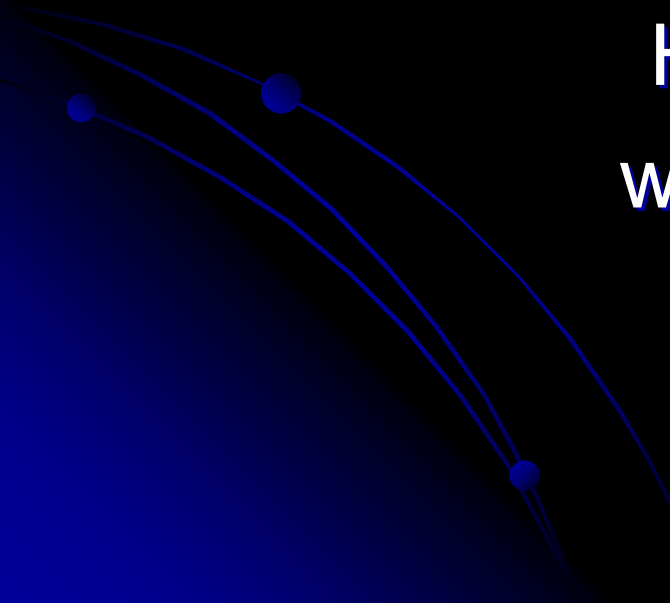
"specific proposals on TCBMs can become an integral part of an agreement or agreements to prevent the arms race in outer space"

TCBMs and PPW Treaty, CD/1778 (22 May 2006):

- ✓ First, TCBMs would contribute to creation of favorable conditions for a new agreement. The joint endeavor on possible TCBM recommendations would, by itself, promote deeper understanding of the states' intentions, the current and prospective state of affairs in outer space. In this sense, the joint work on TCBMs would itself promote mutual confidence.
- ✓ Second, the TCBM-based predictability of military activities in outer space would objectively reduce probability of emergence of sudden military threats in space and from space, would diminish ambiguities in the strategic situation in outer space and, consequently, would decrease the need for early preparation of states to neutralize such threats.
- ✓ Third, the development of verification measures in relation to the treaty is not an easy task. Elaboration of the treaty without verification measures - which can be prepared at a later stage - may be a preferable option to start with. In this case, TCBMs could, to a certain degree, compensate for the lack of verification measures in the new treaty, the more so what is meant is confirmation of non-placement of weapons in outer space, free of any so far.

Further work on TCBMs
is to be carried out within the UN GGE

How to organize
work of the GGE?



UN GA Resolution 65/68:

"Transparency and confidence-building measures
in outer space activities"

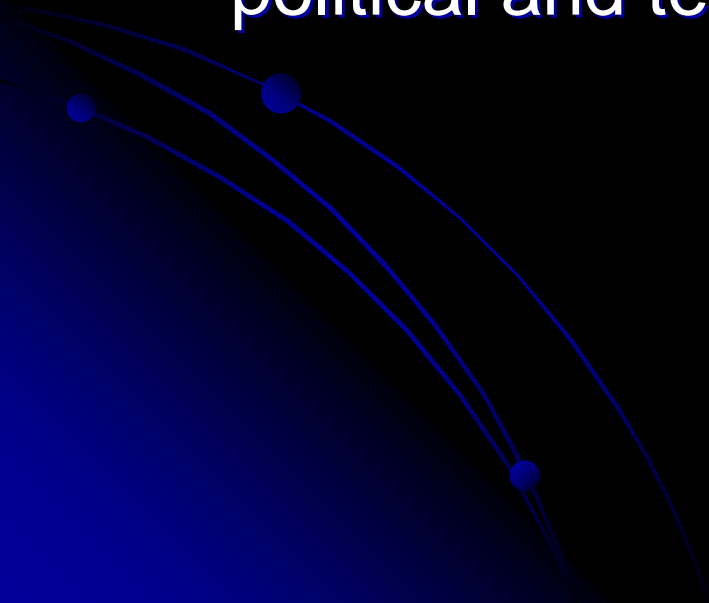


The General Assembly

Requests the Secretary-General to establish, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, a group of governmental experts to conduct a study, commencing in 2012, on outer space transparency and confidence-building measures, making use of the relevant reports of the Secretary-General, including the final report, submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, and without prejudice to the substantive discussions on the prevention of an arms race in outer space within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament, and to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-eight session a report with an annex containing the study of governmental experts.


Getting prepared for the GGE

- ✓ define goals, agenda and work program
 - right priorities and realism
 - consensus-based approach
 - continuity with the previous GGE (1991-93)
 - political and technological changes

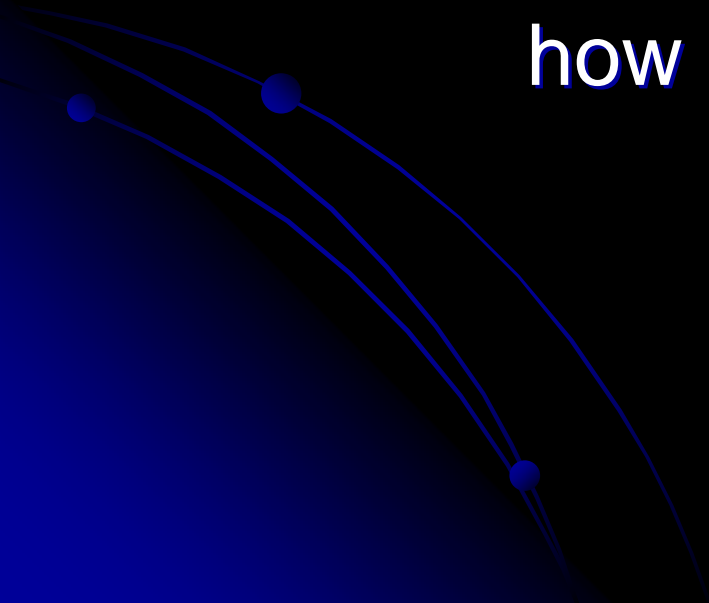


Russia - China proposals on TCBMs at the Conference on Disarmament (CD/1778, 22 May 2006)

Eventual TCBMs, several categories :

- ✓ measures aimed at enhancing transparency of outer space programs;
 - ✓ measures aimed at expansion of information on outer space objects in orbits;
 - ✓ measures related to the rules of conduct during outer space activities.
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GGE's final document versus
draft Code of conduct
in outer space activities:
how do they correlate?



Thank you

